

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device for positioning a surgical apparatus in a selected position within a surgical site, the device comprising:

a rod for positioning over the surgical site;

a housing attached to the rod the housing having an internal cavity;

a clamping mechanism attached to the housing and wherein the clamping mechanism includes a bore comprising a frusto-conical surface for engaging the surgical apparatus; and

a force providing mechanism comprising a rotatable wedge movably positioned within the internal cavity of the housing wherein the force providing mechanism moves to secure the surgical apparatus to the clamping mechanism in the selected position within the surgical site by frictionally engaging the frusto-conical surface.

2 – 5 (Canceled)

6. (Original) The device of claim 1 and further comprising a handle attached to the force providing mechanism.

7. (Currently Amended) A clamp for securing a surgical apparatus in a selected position within a surgical site, the clamp comprising:

a housing having an internal cavity;

a clamping mechanism comprising a socket that constricts wherein the clamping mechanism operably attaches to the housing and wherein the surgical apparatus is positioned within the socket; and

an actuating mechanism comprising a rotatable wedge positioned within the internal cavity and in communication with the clamping mechanism and wherein the actuating mechanism moves to secure the surgical apparatus to the clamping mechanism by frictionally engaging the surgical apparatus with the constricting

socket.

8 – 9 (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The clamp of claim 7 wherein the constricting socket comprises a frusto-conical surface that engages the surgical apparatus and secures the surgical apparatus in a select position as the actuating mechanism is moved.

11 – 12 (Canceled)

13. (Original) The clamp of claim 7 and further comprising a handle attached to the actuating mechanism.

14. (Original) The clamp of claim 7 and further comprising a rod attached to the housing for securing the clamp in a selected position.

15. (Currently Amended) A device for precisely repositioning a surgical apparatus in a selected position within a surgical site, the device comprising:

- a support rod positionable above the surgical site;

- a clamping mechanism supported by the rod and wherein the clamping mechanism comprises a socket comprising a frusto-conical surface for engaging the surgical apparatus; and

- a force providing mechanism comprising a rotatable wedge in communication with the clamping mechanism wherein the force providing mechanism is positionable between a first position wherein the surgical apparatus is removable from the socket and a second position wherein the surgical apparatus is secured within the socket of the clamping mechanism by a frictional engagement of the surgical apparatus with

the frusto-conical surface of the socket and wherein with the surgical rod stationarily positioned within the surgical site, the surgical apparatus is removable from the surgical site and repositionable in the selected position within the surgical site.

16 – 19 (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A clamp for clamping a surgical apparatus having an end portion, the clamp comprising:

a receiving unit comprising a throughbore having a first frusto-conical surface configured for engaging the end portion of the surgical apparatus; and

a clamping mechanism comprising a rotatable wedge engageable with the end portion for drawing the end portion within the receiving unit such that the end portion is held in a clamped position.

21. (Original) The clamp of claim 20 and wherein the receiving unit frictionally engages the end portion to hold the end portion in the clamped position.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) The clamp of claim ~~20~~ and wherein the end portion comprises a second frusto-conical surface that frictionally engages the first frusto-conical surface of the through bore to hold the end portion in the clamped position.

24 – 25 (Canceled)